Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

1   18. (Currently Amended) In a A license issuing system in which a license-
2   issuing computer, a seller computer, and a purchaser computer are coupled to communicate with
3   each other, wherein:
4   the seller computer requests input of client information, product information and
5   license program information to the purchaser computer;
6   upon receiving the information, the purchaser computer transfers the client
7   information, the product information and the license program information to the seller computer
8   the seller computer transfers the product information and the license program
9   information, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer; and
10   the license-issuing computer issues a license key for the program specified by the
11   license program information upon authentication of the product information received from the
12   seller computer; and [[.]]
13   the seller computer receives said license key from the license-issuing computer
14   and transfers said license key to the purchaser computer based on the client information.

1   19. (Currently Amended) A license key issuing system, for use by three
2   computers coupled via a network, the system comprising:
3   a purchaser computer for receiving client information, product information and
4   license program information;
5   a seller computer connected with the purchaser computer to receive the client
6   information, the product information, and the license program information from the purchaser
7   computer, and in response provide the product information and the license program information,
8   but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer, together with a request for a
9   license key;
10   the a license-issuing computer connected with the seller computer and operable to
11   receive the product information, the license program information, and the request for a license
12   key from the seller computer, issuing and in response issue a license key to the seller computer in
13   response to a request upon authentication of the product information;

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14   wherein the seller computer then transmitting is further operable to receive the
15   license key and transmit the license key to the purchaser computer.

1   20. (Currently Amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for
2   issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:
3   [[a]] program code which allows the license-issuing computer to extract product
4   information and license program information from a license request, product information,
5   wherein any client information has been removed by a seller computer sending the license
6   request, and which does not allow the license-issuing computer to store client information,
7   wherein the license program information and the client information are provided by an individual
8   to [[a]] the seller computer; and
9   [[a]] program code which authenticates the product information and issues a
10   license key to the seller computer to send to the individual for a program specified by the license
11   program information.

1   21. (Currently Amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for
2   issuing a license key, the license-issuing computer including:
3   [[a]] program code which allows the license-issuing computer to receive a product
4   number, a license program name, and a trial license key, but not client information, from a seller
5   computer for a purchaser who enters that information sends the product number, the license
6   program name, the trial license key, and the client information to the into a seller computer; and
7   [[a]] program code which authenticates the product number, and in response
8   issues a trial license key to the seller computer to send to the purchaser to allow use of a program
9   specified by the license program name for a given time.

1   22. (Previously Presented) A license-issuing computer as in claim 21
2   characterized in that the license-issuing computer issues a license for a program stored in a data
3   storage system.

1   23. (Currently Amended) A license-issuing computer connected to a network for
2   issuing license keys, the license-issuing computer including:

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3   [[a]] program code [[in]] which allows the license-issuing computer receives to

4   receive a product number, a license program name, but not client information, from a seller

5   computer for a purchaser;

6   [[a]] program code [[in]] which allows the license-issuing computer to perform

7   performs authentication of the product number and issues to issue a trial license key to the seller

8   computer to send to the purchaser to allow limited use of the license program by the purchaser;

9   and

10   [[a]] program code [[in]] which allows the license-issuing computer to

11   authenticate authenticates the trial license key when the license-issuing computer receives the

12   license program name and the trial license key from the seller computer, and which issues a paid

13   license key, for an authenticated trial license key, to the seller computer to send to the purchaser

1   24. (Currently Amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a

2   license key [[to]] by a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser

3   computer through a network, the seller computer including:

4   [[a]] program code which requests client information, product information, and

5   license program information from the purchaser computer;

6   [[a]] program code which receives the client information, the product information,

7   and the license program information from the purchaser computer, and which transmits only the

8   product information and the license program information to the license-issuing computer; and

9   [[a]] program code which receives the license key from the license-issuing

10   computer and transmits the license key to the purchaser computer.

1   25. (Currently Amended) A seller computer which requests the issuance of a

2   license key [[to]] by a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser

3   computer, the seller computer including :

4   a program which requests input of client information, product information, and

5   license program information to the purchaser computer through the network;

6   [[a]] program code which receives [[the]] client information, [[the]] product

7   information, and [[the]] license program information from the purchaser computer and transmits

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8   only the product information and the license program information to the license-issuing

9   computer; and

10   [[a]] program <u>code</u> which receives the license key from the license-issuing

11   computer and transmits the license key to the purchaser computer.

1   26. (Currently Amended) A seller computer which requests a trial license key to

2   allow use of a computer program for a trial period, and a special license key which extends the

3   trial period in response to a request from a purchaser computer through a network, the seller

4   computer including:

5   means for receiving input of a product number, a license program name, and a

6   trial license key from a purchaser;

7   means for providing a license key received from a license-issuing computer;

8   ~~a program which requests~~ <u>means for requesting</u> input of client information, the

9   product number, and the license program name [[to]] <u>from</u> the purchaser computer;

10   ~~a program which receives~~ <u>means for receiving</u> the client information, the product

11   information, and the license program information from the purchaser computer and ~~transmits~~

12   <u>transmitting</u> only one of (1) the product information and the license program information to the

13   license-issuing computer or (2) the product number, the license program name, and the trial

14   license key to the license-issuing computer; and

15   ~~a program which receives~~ <u>means for receiving</u> the trial license key from the

16   license-issuing computer and ~~transmits~~ <u>transmitting</u> the license key to the purchaser computer.

1   27. (Previously Presented) A method for a seller computer to request a license

2   key from a license-issuing computer in response to a request from a purchaser computer through

3   a network, the method comprising:

4   a step in which the seller computer receives client information, a product number

5   and a license program name from a purchaser computer;

6   a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number and the license

7   program name, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer;

8   a step in which the seller computer receives a trial license key to allow use of the

9   program for a given period;

10   a step in which the seller computer transmits the trial license key to the purchase-

11   computer;

12   a step in which the seller computer inputs the client information, the product

13   number, the license program name and the trial license key communicated from a purchaser

14   therein,

15   a step in which the seller computer transmits the product number, the license

16   program name and the trial license key to the license-issuing computer,

17   a step in which the seller computer receives a special license key for extending a

18   trial period by the trial license key from the license-issuing computer, and

19   a step in which the seller computer transmits the special license key to the

20   purchaser.

1   28. (Currently Amended) A licensing issuing method of a license issuing system

2   comprising a license-issuing computer, a seller computer, a purchaser computer, and a network

3   which connects the license-issuing computer, the seller computer and the purchaser computer,

4   wherein:

5   the license-issuing computer requests input of client information, product

6   information, and license program information [[to]] from the purchaser computer to send to the

7   seller computer;

8   the purchaser computer transfers the client information, the product information,

9   and the license program information to the seller computer in response to the request from the

10   license-issuing computer;

11   the seller computer transfers the product information and the license program

12   information, but not the client information, to the license-issuing computer; and

13   the license-issuing computer issues a license key for a program specified by the

14   license program information, upon authentication of the product information, to the seller

15   computer to send to the purchaser computer.

1   29. (Currently Amended) A license issuing method of a license-issuing computer

2   which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the network,

3   the license issuing method including:

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4   a step in which the license-issuing computer receives product information, license

5   program information, but not client information, from data input by a purchaser <u>and sent to a</u>

6   <u>seller computer</u>;

7   a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the product

8   information; and

9   a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a license key for a program

10   specified by the license program information <u>to the seller computer</u> when the authentication is

11   normally finished <u>to be sent to the purchaser</u>.

1   30. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein the license-issuing

2   computer issues a license key for a program specified by a license program name.

1   31. (Currently Amended) A license issuing method of a license-issuing computer

2   which is connected to a network and performs the issuance of a license key through the network,

3   the license issuing method including:

4   a step in which the license-issuing computer receives a product number [[,]] <u>and a</u>

5   license program name, but not client information, the product number, <u>the client information,</u>

6   and the license program name provided by the purchaser <u>to a seller computer</u>;

7   a step in which the license-issuing computer authenticates the product number;

8   a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a trial license key <u>to the seller</u>

9   <u>to be sent to the purchaser</u> to allow use of a program specified by the license program name for a

10   given period;

11   a step in which the license-issuing computer receives the product number, the

12   license program name, and the trial license key, ~~the product number, the license program name~~

13   ~~and the trial license key~~;

14   a step in which the license-issuing computer performs authentication of the trial

15   license key; and

16   a step in which the license-issuing computer issues a special license key <u>to the</u>

17   <u>seller computer to send to the purchaser</u> which extends a trial period.

1   32. (Previously Presented) A license issuing method characterized in that the

2   license issuing method according to claim 31 issues the license for a program installed in a data

3   storage system.